

*Desmodium glabellum* was occasional on the hillside. This is a rare species which had been reported in the state only at Waterford (*Graves*). Mr. C. A. Weatherby states that the only other record for this species in New England is one from Massachusetts, which is not well authenticated, and that this new station in Windham may very probably be the northeasternmost for the species. It was interesting to note that at least seven other *Desmodiums* were in evidence.

Another rare species, though less so in general than *Desmodium glabellum*, was *Eupatorium sessilifolium*, which had not previously been reported from the county. A few plants were found on the first visit, and the last yielded a few more.

A third species new to the county, *Acalypha digyneia*, grew in small quantity about the ledges at the summit of the hill.

Besides the above, there were noted the following species whose ranges, as given in the Catalogue of Flowering Plants and Ferns of Connecticut, include Windham County, but which are at least very uncommon there:—*Desmodium bracteosum*, which was occasional and which, like the three following species, apparently does not occur in central and northern sections of the county; *D. canescens*, a single small colony; *Geum flavum* in fair numbers; *Polygonum virginianum*, a few plants; *Agrimonia mollis* in some quantity; and *Panicum Boscii*, var. *molle*, scattered through a considerable area in the woods.

Other less rare species, previously noted in the county, but not very generally distributed, were *Desmodium paniculatum*, *D. rigidum*, *Lespedeza procumbens*, *L. virginica*, *Anychia canadensis*, *Solidago ulmifolia*, *Corallorrhiza odontorhiza* and *Erigeron pusillus*.

On one of the trips, a short stop was made in Canterbury, where Mr. Weatherby located  $\times$  *Lysimachia producta*, the second record for the county.—ALAN W. UPHAM, East Woodstock, Connecticut.

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DIARRHENA FESTUCOIDES AGAIN.—In RHODORA, xxxiv. 204 (1932), I made the avowedly new combination *Diarrhena festucoides*, based upon *Diarina festucoides* Raf. Med. Repos. hex. 2, v. 352 (1808). At that time I stated that the spelling *Diarrhena*, starting with Beauvois (1812) and conserved under the International Rules, was not a mere change of spelling of Rafinesque's generic name. Several friends, including Mr. Mackenzie and Professor Hitchcock, point

out to me that I was in error: that Beauvois gave as a synonym of his *Diarrhena* "*Diarrhena* SMART" and in the Index "*DIARRHENA Schmal.*" Beauvois, then, was merely changing the spelling and stumbling over the authorship of *Diarina* Rafinesque-SCHMALTZ.

This being the case, *Diarrhena* Raf. in Beauv. (1812) is merely a change of spelling, not apparently sanctioned by its original author, of *Diarina* Raf. (1808). Consequently, the correct combination, *Diarrhena* (under the discarded spelling *Diarina*) *festucoides* goes back to its source, Rafinesque (1808). The question raised, whether species legitimately published under invalid or no generic names can stand, is still open. In view of obvious differences of judgment on this academic point, which is not definitely covered by the International Rules, I have referred the matter for study to the Executive Committee on Nomenclature appointed at Cambridge.—M. L. FERNALD.

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FICUS CARICA IN MASSACHUSETTS.—In the fall of 1931 Mr. Gilbert Emery sent to Boston, for identification, a fragment of a leaf from a strange plant observed by him in Whitman, Massachusetts, for two successive years.

Wishing to see more of the plant, the writer went to Whitman on November 17, and after examining a large area of waste ground—the most probable habitat—discovered the shrub growing in a vacant field, on the sunny side of an old shed, close to the building. The plant was about four feet high, well branched, and bore several small green fruits. Specimens later shown to Dr. Alfred Rehder and Mr. J. B. Mackintosh were identified by them as the fig, *Ficus Carica* L.

Figs are often grown for ornamental and commercial purposes, and in southern New England will live outside during the summer, but records of persistent escapes as far north as Whitman may not be very numerous.—S. N. F. SANFORD, Boston Society of Natural History.

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